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Road Map to the 8 Required Elements

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Chapter 1—Overview

This chapter explains how the 8 Required Elements were met and serves as a guide to locating the Elements within the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The first part describes in detail the organization and format of the CWCS to help navigate the document. The second part is a road map to the 8 Required Elements, including page numbers.

Organization and Format of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)

The District's CWCS is the blueprint for a plan of action for restoring the District's wildlife heritage. Its organization is based on incorporating the 8 elements required by Congress. First, it illustrates the District's existing wildlife and habitats and their conservation needs. Then, it describes plans for action and monitoring based on those needs.

Chapter 2— Introduction. The Introduction provides the background, purpose and scope of the CWCS. It describes the goals, approach, value, legislative mandate and guidance, background on the DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division, problem and need, threats to wildlife in the District, existing conservation legislation in the District, the list of partners that contributed to the development of this CWCS.

Chapter 3— Approach. The Approach describes the process used to develop the CWCS and meet the 8 Required Elements. It includes the timeline of events, including meetings with working groups and the public. It describes the processes used to select and rank the species, habitats and threats that are targeted by this CWCS. Finally, it describes programmatic challenges that must be met to successfully implement this strategy.

Chapter 4— District Overview. The District Overview briefly illustrates the current geography of the District. It describes the District's two ecoregions and land use and cover. It also places the District in the context of the mid-Atlantic region.

Chapter 5— Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their Habitats. This chapter describes the condition of the District's species of greatest conservation need and their habitats, as required by Elements #1 and 2. It lists and gives the status and trends of the District's 148 species of greatest conservation need. It also maps, describes and ranks its 13 priority habitats types, as well as lists the priority habitat locations.

Chapter 6— Threats. This chapter presents the treats targeted by this CWCS, as required by Element #3. It describes the sources and management challenges of the threats to the overall top-five highest-ranking threats to the District's terrestrial and aquatic habitats. It also gives descriptions for the other highest priority threats to each habitat type.

Chapter 7— Conservation Actions—Habitats. The conservation actions are divided among three chapters, and fulfill Required Element #4. The first chapter—Chapter 7—lists overarching conservation actions that span all of the habitat types and then describes existing and proposed conservation actions targeted to specific habitats, by providing a fact sheet for each habitat type. The actions are targeted at the top-five ranking threats to each habitat. The associated species of greatest conservation need and priority habitat locations are also provided for each habitat.

Chapter 8— Conservation Actions—Species. The second conservation actions chapter—Chapter 8—briefly describes the species of greatest conservation need and their conservation concerns, as required by Element #4. This chapter provides the status, range, local habitat, species ecology, and at least one threat and conservation action for most species.

Chapter 9— Public Outreach and Participation. The third chapter on conservation actions—Chapter 9—describes the strategies for engaging the public in developing and implementing the CWCS, as required by Element #8.

Chapter 10— Monitoring, Review and Revision. The monitoring chapter identifies the District’s plan to monitor the species of greatest conservation need, the success of the conservation actions, adapt the strategy to new information and changing conditions, and subsequently review and revise the strategy, as required by Elements #5 and 6. The monitoring plan is divided by taxa: birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. It lists existing monitoring actions as well as resources for standard monitoring protocols.

Roadmap to the 8 Required Elements

Required Element #1: Information on distribution and abundance, including low and declining populations that are indicative of the diversity and health of the District's wildlife

- A. Sources of information on wildlife abundance and distribution
 - Ch. 5—Table 5. Species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 8—Species Fact Sheets
- B. Information about abundance and distribution, or plans to obtain this information
 - Ch. 5—Table 6. Status and trend of species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 8—Species Fact Sheets
- C. Identification of low and declining populations
 - Ch. 5—Table 5. Species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 5—Table 6. Status and trend of species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 8—Species Fact Sheets
- D. All major groups of wildlife
 - Ch. 5—Table 5. Species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring Species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 10—Some invertebrate groups excluded right now due to lack of knowledge
- E. Species selection process
 - Ch. 3—Species selection process
 - Ch. 5—Table 6. Status and trend of species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 5—List of species of greatest conservation need may change over time after monitoring and review process

Required Element #2: Descriptions of locations and condition of key habitats

- A. Explanation for level of detail provided, or plans to obtain greater detail
 - Ch. 5—Lists, prioritizes, describes, and identifies conservation needs for all key habitat types
 - Ch. 7—Provides threats, conservation actions, and identifies key locations for each habitat type

- B. Key habitats and their conditions in enough detail to determine best conservation actions

Ch. 5—Lists, prioritizes, describes, and identifies conservation needs for all key habitat types

Ch. 5—Describes conservation needs for urban landscapes and springs and seeps

Ch. 7—Provides threats, conservation actions, and identifies key locations for each habitat type

Required Element #3: Descriptions of problems affecting species or their habitats, and priority research efforts to identify conservation efforts

- A. Sources of information used to determine threats

Ch. 3—Threat prioritization process

- B. Threats are detailed enough to determine best conservation actions

Ch. 5—Specific threats and conservation actions identified for emergent tidal wetlands

Ch. 6—Top five threats across habitats identified and detailed

Ch. 6—Top five threats for each habitat identified and detailed

- C. Consideration of threats originating outside of the District

Ch. 6—National, international and global threats

Ch. 6—Sedimentation

Ch. 6—Pollution

Ch. 7—Coordinate with regional land managers

- D. Plans to obtain information that is currently unavailable regarding describing threats

Ch. 5—Ponds and pools

- E. Needs are sufficiently described to develop projects after Strategy is approved

Ch. 6—Threats

Required Element #4: Descriptions of conservation actions to conserve species and their habitats and priorities for implementing actions

- A. Identification of how conservation actions address threats to species and their habitats

Ch. 7—Conservation actions are targeted to specific threats

- B. Descriptions of conservation actions to guide implementation of those actions through the development and execution of specific projects and programs

Ch. 7—Description of conservation actions

Ch. 7—Listing of partners for implementation

Ch. 10—Monitoring the success of actions using measurable goals

- C. Linkage of conservation actions to objectives that will facilitate monitoring and performance measurement of those conservation actions

Ch. 5—Forested wetlands/ riparian woodlands/ floodplain

Ch. 7—Monitor browser populations

Ch. 7—Description of conservation actions with goals

- D. Descriptions of conservation actions that could be addressed by Federal agencies or regional, national, or international partners and shared with other States

Ch. 7—Listing of partners for implementation

Ch. 7—Exotic Plants Management Team as overarching action

Ch. 7—National Park Service deer management plan

Ch. 7—Anacostia Watershed Society goose management efforts

- E. In cases where there is insufficient information to describe needed conservation actions, research or survey needs for obtaining information to develop specific conservation actions

Ch. 5—Plans to develop surveys to research unknown status and trend data

Ch. 7—Continued research as an overarching conservation action

Ch. 10—Develop comprehensive inventory for invertebrates

- F. Identification of the relative priority of conservation actions

Ch. 7—Conservation actions are prioritized in that they are linked to items that are prioritized; conservation action are linked to threats which are prioritized, which are linked to habitats which are prioritized.

Required Element #5: Proposed plans for monitoring species and their habitats, the effectiveness of conservation actions, and adapting these actions to respond to new information or changing conditions.

- A. Plans for monitoring species and their habitats
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring species of greatest conservation need and their habitats
- B. Descriptions for how the outcomes of the conservation actions will be monitored
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring conservation actions
- C. If monitoring is not identified for a species, explanations for why it is not appropriate, necessary, or possible
 - Ch. 7—Continued research as an overarching action
- D. Monitoring is to be accomplished at one of several levels including, individual species, guilds, or natural communities
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 10—Approach to monitoring
- E. The monitoring utilities or builds on existing monitoring and survey systems or explains how information will be obtained to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 10—Approach to monitoring
- F. The monitoring considers the appropriate geographic scale to evaluate status of species and the effectiveness of conservation actions
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring species of greatest conservation need
 - Ch. 10—Approach to monitoring
- G. Adaptiveness of conservation actions and implementation of new actions accordingly
 - Ch. 10—Monitoring conservation action

Required Element #6: Descriptions of procedures to review the Strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years.

- A. Process that will be used to review the Strategy within the next ten years

Ch. 10—Review and revision

Required Element #7: Descriptions of the plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Strategy with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.

- A. Descriptions of the extent of coordination with and efforts to involve Federal, State, local agencies and Indian tribes in the development of this CWCS

Ch. 3—Roles and Groups—Working Group

Ch. 3—Table 2. Working Group participants and their affiliations

- B. Descriptions of continued coordination with these agencies in the implementation, review and revision of the CWCS

Ch. 5—Partnerships with overbrowsing and vernal pools

Ch. 6—Partnerships with invasive species and emergent tidal wetlands

Ch. 7—Listing of partners for implementation

Ch. 10—Monitoring partnerships

Required Element #8: Descriptions of public participation in the development, revision, and implementation

- A. Descriptions of the extent of the efforts to involve the public in the development of the CWCS

Ch. 3—Public participation process

Ch. 3—Table 3. Level of public involvement

- B. Descriptions of continued public involvement in the implementation and revision of the CWCS

Ch. 9—Public participation and outreach